

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- Sub 9.7
1. A vehicle ~~suspension system~~ comprising:
a stabilizer bar connected to a vehicle wheel; and
at least one band secured about said stabilizer bar which interacts with at least one bushing positioned about said stabilizer bar and adjacent to said at least one band to prevent lateral movement of said stabilizer bar.
 2. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 1 wherein said band includes an attachment portion on a first end and a notched portion on an opposing second end, said attachment portion expanding after entry through said notched portion to secure said band to said stabilizer bar.
 3. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 2 wherein said attachment portion is substantially U-shaped and includes a pair of opposing projections, expansion of said projections after entry through said notched portion retaining said projections by a pair of opposing protrusions of said notched portion.
 4. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 2 wherein said band further includes an alignment mechanism to prevent sliding of said band during attachment to said stabilizer bar.
 5. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 1 wherein an arm on a first end of said band engages a protrusion on a second end of said band to secure said band to said stabilizer bar.

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6. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 5 wherein said arm includes a hooked portion which engages a recess on said protrusion to secure said band to said stabilizer bar.
7. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 5 wherein said arm includes one of a recess and a corresponding projection and said protrusion includes the other of said recess and said projection, said projection engaging said recess to secure said band to said stabilizer bar.
8. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 5 wherein said band further includes a pair of apertures each receiving a peg to further secure said band to said stabilizer bar.
9. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 1 wherein a first inclined edge of a first portion of said band is slidably engaged with a second inclined edge of a second portion of said band to secure said band to said stabilizer bar.
10. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 9 wherein each of said portions further include a protrusion and a notch, said protrusion of each of said portions being deflected to each engage said notch of said other of said portions to secure said band to said stabilizer bar.
11. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 9 wherein said first inclined edge includes one of a projection and a recess and said second inclined edge includes the other of said projection and said recess, said projection and said recess engaging during sliding of said edges to guide movement of said edges.

12. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 1 wherein a first end and an opposing second end of said band each include a flange, a bracket including a pair of apertures which correspond to said flanges is positioned on said band such that each of said flanges is received in one of said apertures, deflection of said flanges securing said band to said stabilizer bar.
13. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 1 wherein said band includes an first curved portion having a first recess on a first end and a second curved portion having a second recess on an opposing second end, said curved portions engaging opposing recesses to secure said band to said stabilizer bar.
14. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 13 wherein said band further includes an alignment mechanism to prevent sliding of said band during attachment to said stabilizer bar.

15. A vehicle suspension system comprising:
a stabilizer bar connected to a vehicle wheel;
a vehicle frame;
a pair of bushings positioned about said stabilizer bar, said stabilizer bar secured to said frame by a mounting bracket positioned over each of said pair of bushings;
and
a pair of bands secured about said stabilizer bar and each adjacent to one of said pair of bushings which interact with said pair of bushings to prevent lateral movement of said stabilizer bar.
16. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 15 wherein each of said pair of bands are adjacent to an inner side of one of said pair of bushings.
17. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 15 wherein each of said pair of bands are adjacent to an outer side of one of said pair of bushings.
18. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 17 wherein said band includes a substantially U-shaped attachment portion including a pair of opposing projections on a first end and a notched portion including a pair of opposing protrusions on an opposing second end, expansion of said projections after entry through said notched portion retaining said projections by said protrusions to secure said band to said stabilizer bar.
19. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 15 wherein an arm on a first end of said band engages a protrusion on a second end of said band to secure said band to said stabilizer bar.

20. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 19 wherein said arm includes a hooked portion which engages a recess on said protrusion to secure said band to said stabilizer bar.
21. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 19 wherein said arm includes one of a recess and a corresponding projection and said protrusion includes the other of said recess and said projection, said projection engaging said recess to secure said band to said stabilizer bar.
22. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 15 wherein a first inclined edge of a first portion of said band includes one of a projection and a recess and is slidingly engaged with a second inclined edge of a second portion of said band including the other of said projection and said recess such that said projection and said recess engage during sliding of said edges to guide movement of said edges and to secure said band to said stabilizer bar, each of said portions further including a protrusion and a notch, said protrusions of each of said portions being deflected to each engage said notch of said other of said portions to secure said band to said stabilizer bar.

23. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 15 wherein a first end and an opposing second end of said band each include a flange, a bracket including a pair of apertures which correspond to said flanges is positioned on said band such that each of said flanges is received in one of said apertures, deflection of said flanges securing said band to said stabilizer bar.
24. The vehicle suspension system as recited in claim 15 wherein said band includes an first curved portion having a first recess on a first end and a second curved portion having a second recess on an opposing second end, said curved portions engaging opposing recesses to secure said band to said stabilizer bar.

25. A method for preventing lateral movement of a stabilizer bar of a vehicle suspension system comprising the steps of:
- mounting said stabilizer bar to a vehicle with at least one bushing;
 - securing at least one band about said stabilizer bar adjacent to said at least one bushing;
 - axially twisting said stabilizer bar; and
 - interacting said at least one band with said at least one bushing to prevent lateral movement of said stabilizer bar.

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